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The individual(s) present at the Settlement Conference with settlement authority must have the unfettered discretion and authority on behalf of the party to: 1) fully explore all settlement options and to agree during the conference to any settlement terms acceptable to the party, G. Heileman Brewing Co., Inc. v. Joseph Oat Corp., 871 F.2d 648, 653 (7th Cir. 1989); 2) change the settlement position of a party during the course of the conference, Pitman v. Brinker Int'l, Inc., 216 F.R.D. 481, 485-86 (D. Ariz. 2003); and 3) negotiate a settlement without being restricted by any predetermined level of authority, Nick v. Morgan's Foods, Inc., 270 F.3d 590, 596 (8th Cir. 2001). Appearance by litigation counsel only is not acceptable. Retained outside corporate counsel shall not appear on behalf of a corporation as the party who has the authority to negotiate and enter into a settlement.

Moreover, at the motion hearing held on December 17, 2015, the parties

Moreover, at the motion hearing held on December 17, 2015, the parties indicated that they would stipulate to a bench trial. Based on the Court's recent ruling on Plaintiff's motion for summary judgment, the parties shall inform Magistrate Judge Adler whether they would stipulate to a bench trial. If the case is not resolved at the settlement conference, the Court will set dates for trial.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: January 11, 2016

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United States District Judge